



Why the COVID-19 Vaccine is good for Young Children

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are now authorized for children 6 months to 5 years of age. We now have a safe and effective way to protect our youngest kids.

COVID-19 vaccines protect our children

- This is important progress in our fight against COVID-19.
- We know from vaccinations in 5-17 year olds that hospitalization, critical illness and deaths are all [more common](#) among kids and teens who are not vaccinated than kids and teens who are vaccinated and boosted
- Some kids do get [Long COVID](#), and don't recover for weeks or months.

COVID is a real threat for our youngest children

- During the Omicron surge during the winter of 2022, children under five years old were hospitalized at a rate 5 times greater than when Delta was the dominant variant.
- Only about half of hospitalized young children had an underlying medical condition – the other half were healthy children with no prior conditions.
- Young children are also at risk of the rare syndrome known as MIS-C (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children), which is caused by COVID-19.
- Covid-19 is among the leading causes of death for children in this age group.

Extensive trials prove the vaccines are safe and effective for children ages 6 months to 4 years old

- The two vaccines for children 6 months to 4 years old are now authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) because these studies prove the vaccines are safe and effective.
- For our youngest children, these vaccines will be delivered in 2 doses (Moderna) and 3 doses (Pfizer).
- Each shot has less vaccine in it than the dosage for older children and adults.
- Vaccines will be available through doctor offices and pharmacies, community clinics and some other locations. Go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a location near you.
- The Pfizer study included more than 4,500 children and the Moderna study included more than 6,300 children. These studies continued during different phases in the Omicron wave.
- These studies included children who previously were infected with COVID-19.
- In both studies, side effects were minimal, and the chance of a severe reaction was very low.
- In both studies, vaccinated children saw fewer infections. Vaccines reduced the rate of ANY infection by between 37-80%.
- There were no myocarditis cases reported in these clinical trials. This is great news but also to be expected with such a rare event.

- Doctors and authorities will closely follow the real world data on this. The dosing at this age group is so low that myocarditis in very young kids is possible, but unlikely. Kids can get myocarditis from infection, and if they do, it is much more severe than vaccine-induced myocarditis.

Vaccines can get kids back to daycare, camp and preschool safely

- Young kids have difficulty with other protective measures (like masks and social distancing).
- Getting COVID-19 means missed school days. If large numbers of kids or teachers are sick, entire schools can be forced to close.
- Getting vaccinated and boosted reduces the chance of infection and the need to miss preschool or daycare if sick.
- Kids are very effective at transmitting COVID-19 – they can get their grandparents, parents, and members in the community sick.
- Data on older children and adults shows COVID-19 vaccinations have been safe.
- There is extensive data from adults and adolescents that the mRNA vaccines have no impact on fertility. COVID-19 infection, though, does lead to temporary infertility among males